

AMENDMENT TO ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

--An apparatus for detecting a fire in a scene by infrared radiation image processing includes a means for receiving a sequential plurality of infrared radiation images of the scene, a means for generating for each said image an array of picture elements (pixels), a means for determining for each pixel a value that is representative of the pixel's portion of infrared radiation intensity in the array of the scene image, means for determining a threshold value from the values of the pixels of at least one image, means for identifying a region of at least one pixel in one image of the plurality of images of the scene by comparing the values of the pixels of the one image to the determined threshold value, means for tracking said region through images of the plurality subsequent said one image to determine a change of said region that meets predetermined infrared radiation criteria, and means for detecting the fire in the scene based on the determined change of said region.--